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NEWS

Winchester schools closed after chemical leak at high school

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

October 9, 2025 . 9:45 PM — 2 min read

The Massachusetts Hazmat Team is working to clean up a chemical spill at Winchester High School on Oct. 9. All schools are closed on Friday, Oct. 10. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/SHUKONG OU

Winchester Public Schools will be closed Oct. 10 following a che
at Winchester High School.

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In a note to parents, Superintendent Dr. Frank Hackett said school officials "discovered a chemical spill in a storage cabinet in one of the chemistry prep rooms at Winchester High School. We immediately contacted the Winchester Fire Department."

Winchester Fire Department crews, along with the Massachusetts Hazmat Team, work to clean up a chemical spill at Winchester High School. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/SHUKONG OU

Hackett went on to say that after "assessing the situation, the Fire Department closed the building and called in the Massachusetts Hazmat Team. They are currently on site with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Winchester Health Department, coordinating containment and decontamination of the affected area."

Hackett added given the "uncertainty" around when the cleanup will be completed so everyone can return to the building, a decision was made to cancel school on Friday.

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“Because all school meals are prepared at WHS and transported to our other buildings, our food service program will be unable to operate tomorrow,” Hackett added in his letter. “Therefore, all PreK-12 Winchester public schools will be closed on Oct. 10, 2025.”

Hackett went on to say “the health and safety of our students and staff are our top priority. We will provide updates as soon as the building is cleared and we can resume normal operations. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this situation.”

Members of the Massachusetts Hazmat Team suit up to go into Winchester High School to clean up a chemical spill. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/SHUKONG OU

Students will be out of school on Monday as well, given the Oct. 1[illegible] Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day holiday.

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Check back on this developing story.

Nell Escobar Coakley has been a journalist for more than 30 years. She is co-founder and editor-in-chief of Gotta Know Medford and editor of Winchester News. She can be reached at editor@winchesternews.org.

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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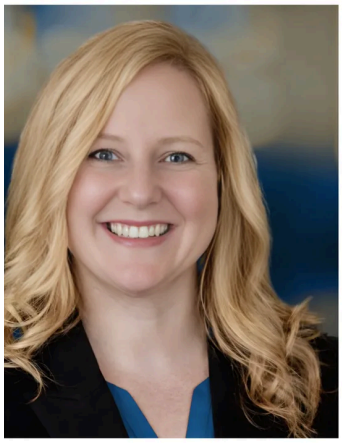

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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